



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to Prison for Violent Assault in McPherson Square

WASHINGTON - A 39-year-old District of Columbia man, Marco Rinaldie, has been sentenced to ten years in prison for a violent and horrific attack on another district resident in McPherson Square Park, located at 15th and I Streets, NW, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced today.

Rinaldie, of no fixed address, received his sentence today before the Honorable Ronna Lee Beck of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia after pleading guilty on June 3, 2009, to Aggravated Assault while Armed.

At the plea hearing, Rinaldie admitted that the government's evidence established that on November 11, 2008, he approached the victim from behind and began to violently punch and kick the victim, beating him until he was unconscious. After beating him, the defendant dragged the victim by his feet into the street, leaving him there to suffer. The victim suffered severe injuries to his brain and body, and is still recuperating from the attack.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended U.S. Park Police Detectives Roger Freeman, Scott Powers, and Officer Stephen Frick for their work on the investigation of this case. He also commended the U.S. Attorney's Office staff who assisted in the successful prosecution, including paralegal specialist Tameka Garcia, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Reagan M. Taylor and Michael C. Song, who handled the prosecution.

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